

Message Text

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FOR CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS SUMMARY, THURSDAY EVENING, FEB 17

NO. 14

1. WIRES:

UPI (ANDERSON) FROM CAIRO - LEAD: "SECRETARY OF STATE
CYRUS VANCE FOUND EGYPT AND ISRAEL UNITED THURSDAY ON THE
NEED FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE THIS YEAR, BUT
AT ODDS OVER THE DETAILS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS." OTHER
POINTS:

--OFFICIALS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS DISAGREED ON GENEVA FORM,
TIMING, AND - MOST IMPORTANT - PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION
AT CONFERENCE.

-- "AN ALMOST CONTINUOUS PROCESSION" OF MIDDLE EAST LEADERS
WILL VISIT WASHINGTON AFTER THE TRIP.

-- U.S. OFFICIALS SAID SECRETARY CONFIRMED CARTER ADMINIS-
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TRATION IS ASKING FOR A 20 PERCENT INCREASE IN US AID TO
EGYPT.

-- SECRETARY PRAISED SADAT'S STATESMANSHIP.

LATER ANDERSON PIECE FROM CAIRO LEADS "PRESIDENT ANWAR
SADAT TOLD SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE THURSDAY THE
UNITED STATES' REFUSAL OF A CONTROVERSIAL ISRAELI WEAPONS

REQUEST WAS 'A VERY POSITIVE STEP' TOWARD MIDDLE EAST PEACE." OTHER POINTS:

- SADAT SAID "WITH THE HELP OF THE UNITED STATES AT EVERY STEP AND STAGE, WE CAN ESTABLISH PEACE IN THE AREA."
- SADAT SAID HE WOULD ACCEPT CARTER INVITATION TO VISIT IN APRIL.
- SADAT PRAISED THE SECRETARY AS A DISTINGUISHED PERSONALITY WHO WAS HONEST AND STRAIGHTFORWARD IN THE TALKS.
- SADAT SAID JORDAN AND THE PLO SHOULD DECIDE HOW THEY WILL REPRESENT THE PALESTINIANS. SUCH A DECISION COULD BREAK THE DEADLOCK OVER PALESTINIAN AND ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN THE GENEVA TALKS.
- BEFORE GENEVA THERE SHOULD BE AN OFFICIAL AND DECLARED LINK BETWEEN JORDAN AND A PALESTINIAN STATE, SAID SADAT.

REUTERS GUTMAN FROM CAIRO: LEAD: PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT TODAY URGED JORDAN AND THE PALESTINIANS TO "ESTABLISH AN OFFICIAL LINK EVEN PRIOR TO THE RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE LATER THIS YEAR."

STORY ALSO CITES OTHER POINTS MADE BY SADAT:

- HE WOULD ACCEPT CARTER INVITATION TO GO TO U.S. IN APRIL.
- HE WAS DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR U.S. ECONOMIC AID AND DECISION NOT TO SUPPLY CBU TO ISRAEL.
- FAHMI AND ARAFAT HAD DISCUSSED PROBLEM OF PLO ACCEPTING EXISTENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL.
- LINK BETWEEN PALESTINIAN AND JORDANIAN STATE (SOMETHING UNCLASSIFIED

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GUTMAN POINTS OUT SADAT HAS PREVIOUSLY ADVOCATED) SHOULD BE FORMAL AND DECLARED EVEN BEFORE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE MEETS.

- JORDANIAN PALESTINIAN CONFEDERATION WAS SADAT SUGGESTION, "BUT THEY ARE FREE TO DECIDE WHAT THEY WANT."
- GUTMAN MAKES FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS IN STORY:
- SECRETARY SAID HE HOPED GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD BE RESUMED IN SECOND HALF OF THIS YEAR.
- CONFEDERATION WAS AIMED AT CIRCUMVENTING ISRAELI OBJECTIONS TO SEPARATE PLO PARTICIPATION.
- CONFEDERATION WOULD CONSTITUTE A SORT OF GUARANTEE TO ISRAEL WHICH FEARS INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE ON HER BORDERS.
- ARRANGEMENT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE PALESTINIANS WITH GUARANTEE AGAINST ISRAELI INCURSIONS.

AP SCHWEID FROM CAIRO: LEAD: PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT HAILED PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION TO CANCEL SALE OF CONCUSSION BOMBS TO ISRAEL AS "A VERY POSITIVE AND

CREATIVE STEP" TODAY AND SAID HE PLANS TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES EARLY IN APRIL.

OTHER POINTS:

-- SADAT ACCEPTED CARTER INVITATION TO VISIT WASHINGTON IN APRIL.

-- SADAT CALLED FOR FORMAL LINKS BETWEEN JORDAN AND THE PALESTINIANS AS A MEANS OF SOLVING THE CORE OF THE PROBLEM IN RESUMING TALKS IN GENEVA.

-- SADAT DECLARED "EGYPT IS READY FOR PEACE 100 PERCENT. EGYPT IS READY FOR EVERYTHING."

2. NETWORK TELEVISION: NBC'S CHANCELLOR: SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE FLEW FROM ISRAEL TO EGYPT THIS MORNING AND FOUND BOTH COUNTRIES READY FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE. THEY DEEPLY AGREED ON THAT BUT STILL IN DEEP DISAGREEMENT ON WHAT KIND OF CONFERENCE AND WHEN AND HOW
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THE PALESTINIANS SHOULD TAKE PART IN IT, IF AT ALL.
RICHARD VALERIANI IS TRAVELING WITH VANCE AND HERE IS HIS REPORT FROM CAIRO:

THIS IS SECRETARY VANCE'S FIRST VISIT TO CAIRO AND SO HE WAS GREETED WITH A HAND SHAKE RATHER THAN THE CUSTOMARY KISS ON BOTH CHEEKS WHICH WAS RESERVED FOR OLD FRIENDS. IN HIS BRIEF ARRIVAL STATEMENT HE LOADED PRAISE ON PRESIDENT SADAT, AN OBVIOUS EFFORT TO BOLSTER THE INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE OF THE EGYPTIAN LEADER WHO IS IN POLITICAL TROUBLE HERE FOLLOWING THE RIOTS OVER POOR ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

VANCE: "WE IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE THE GREATEST RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR PRESIDENT SADAT AS A MAN OF VISION, A STATESMAN AND A LEADER WHO HAS BEEN LEADING A SEARCH FOR A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE, AS WELL AS FOR A BETTER ECONOMIC LIFE FOR HIS PEOPLE."

VALERIANI: VANCE THEN HELD A LONG MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI WHO HAD JUST CONFERRED HERE THIS MORNING WITH YASSAR ARAFAT, THE LEADER OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION. ARAFAT REPORTEDLY INSISTED AGAIN THAT HE PLO TAKE PART IN ANY ARAB/ISRAELI NEGOTIATION. ARAFAT, WHO IS ON A MIDDLE EAST TOUR OF HIS OWN, REPORTEDLY LEFT HERE WITH A GUARANTEE THAT EGYPT WILL INSIST ON SOME SORT OF PLO REPRESENTATION AT A GENEVA CONFERENCE. BUT SINCE ISRAEL ABSOLUTELY REFUSES TO DEAL WITH THE PLO IN ANY

FASHION WHATSOEVER, ONE OF THE MAIN PURPOSES OF VANCE'S VISIT IS TO SEARCH FOR WAYS TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE

PALESTINIANS. FROM HERE VANCE GOES ON TO LEBANON AND JORDAN TOMORROW.

ABC' WALTERS: SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE LEFT ISRAEL TODAY AND WENT TO EGYPT ON HIS MIDDLE EAST FACT FINDING MISSION. UNCLASSIFIED

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HENRY KISSINGER, AS SECRETARY OF STATE, LAST WAS IN CAIRO IN SEPTEMBER OF 1975 WHEN AN AGREEMENT ON THE SINAI WAS REACHED BY ISRAEL AND EGYPT. SINCE THEN THERE HAS BEEN NO REAL PROGRESS ON A SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, NOR ON THE QUESTION OF THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, THE PLO. DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT, BARRIE DUNSMORE, IS WITH VANCE AS HE SEEKS WAYS TO GET THINGS MOVING AGAIN.

DUNSMORE: ANWAR SADAT'S FIRST MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE WAS NOT AS EMOTIONAL AS THAT WHICH HE USED TO HAVE "WITH MY BROTHER, HENRY". NEVERTHELESS, SADAT KINDLY GAVE VANCE A NEW EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL WHICH COULD HELP TO BREAK THE CURRENT DEADLOCK OVER THE PLO. HE PROPOSED THAT THERE BE AN OFFICIAL AND DECLARED LINK BETWEEN ANY NEW PALESTINIAN STATE AND JORDAN EVEN BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN. THIS WOULD BRING THE ARABS MUCH CLOSER TO THE ISRAELI DEMANDS AND HAS ADDED SIGNIFICANCE COMING ON A DAY WHEN THE EGYPTIANS HAD LENGTHY TALKS WITH YASSAR ARAFAT.

CBS' KALB: ANWAR SADAT USED TO WELCOME KISSINGER WITH KISSES ON BOTH CHEEKS. BUT THIS WAS THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT'S FIRST MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE. STILL SADAT WAS DETERMINED TO GIVE HIS VISITOR A WARM WELCOME. EGYPT AND THE UNITED STATES DISAGREE ON PLO PARTICIPATION IN ANY MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE. EGYPT FAVORS IT; THE UNITED STATES OPPOSES IT. BUT AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE WORKING SESSION, SADAT APPLAUDED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION NOT TO SELL CONCUSSION BOMBS TO ISRAEL.

SADAT: "REALLY, IT IS A VERY (INAUDIBLE) AND IT SHOWS GREAT STATESMANSHIP FROM THE SIDE OF PRESIDENT CARTER."

KALB: PRESIDENT SADAT ALSO SET FORTH EGYPT'S PERCEPTION OF THE SHAPE OF A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT.

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SADAT: "THIS IS ONLY THING WE ARE NOW FOR - ESTABLISHING

PERMANENT PEACE IN THE AREA. IN A PEACE AGREEMENT THE STATE OF BELLIGERENCE IS ENDED AFTER 28 YEARS AND THE BORDERS IS (SIC) DEFINED GUARANTEES IS (SIC) GIVEN, THE

WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAEL, THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE."

KALB: VANCE'S INTRODUCTION TO EGYPT INCLUDED A WORKING SESSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI, WHO HAD MET EARLIER IN THE DAY WITH PLO LEADER, YASSAR ARAFAT. IT WAS LATER REVEALED BY SADAT THAT FAHMI AND ARAFAT DISCUSSED AMENDING THE PLO COVENANT THAT CHALLENGES ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST. THERE WERE NO DETAILS. WHAT PRESIDENT SADAT AND FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI HAVE BEEN DOING IS GIVING SECRETARY VANCE A ONE-DAY CRAM COURSE ON HOW EGYPT SEES THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE AND HOW EGYPT FEELS IT MIGHT BE RESOLVED. SIMPLY PUT - THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL.

TOM FENTON COMMENT FOLLOWS: GIST IS THAT EVEN MORE UPSETTING TO ISRAELIS THAN CBU CANCELLATION, IS DISPUTE WITH THE U.S. OVER OIL EXPLOITATION IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. IF ISRAELIS FOUND OIL, IT COULD GIVE THEM A VALUABLE CARD TO PLAY IN THE COMING NEGOTIATIONS. HARTMAN

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